



## USARSO's Command Sergeants Major Change of Responsibility



Brig. Gen. Purl K. Keen, United States Army South commander, stands alongside Command Sergeants Major Armando Ramirez and Dennis Rydell during USARSO's Change of Responsibility held at Evans Theater, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 23 June. CSM Ramirez will be replacing CSM Rydell, who has been US Army South's Command Sergeant Major for approximately four months while also continuing to serve as the Command Sergeant Major of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade. CSM Ramirez is coming from an assignment as the United States Army Field Artillery School Command Sergeant Major.

## First Joint Graduation of Ecuador's Sergeant Majors Academy

By Air Force Maj. Carol McClelland U.S. Military Group, Ecuador

**4/28/2006 – MACHACHI, Ecuador** – Forty-eight senior non-commissioned officers from Ecuador's military branches completed a grueling 8-week course Friday, becoming the first joint class to do so. The combined U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Army-South venture accommodated 45 Army NCOs in 2005. This year the course expanded to include Air Force and Navy participants. Subjects taught included: leadership, service-specific studies, problem-solving, history, roles of the NCO, management, physical fitness, counseling, communication, and the importance of the senior NCO-commander relationship. In addition to Ecuadorian and American instructors, guest speakers from both countries delivered important messages to students. The key note speaker for the graduation ceremony was Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Dennis Rydell, interim command sergeant major who flew in from USARSO, San Antonio, TX to give some advice to departing students. "It's our obligation to train and care for troops. It is our duty to serve as advisors to our commanders; it is our duty to maintain the discipline and standards of our units," he said. "There are obligations that come written in other cases. We assume them in a volunteer form, because if there is something to do – in the absence of orders, we must take the initiative to ensure the mission continues and will not



## Sergeant Majors Academy Continued from Page 1.

fail.”

Grasping the ideal of taking initiative, Ecuadorian Sgt. Maj. He said in the past one would first have to ask for authority then they’d have to demonstrate responsibility.

“Now we see we can be the initiative and accept to be told what to do,” he said. A soldier for 33 years, he said he found he had a lot of military experience to offer but appreciated clarification of what he described as blurred values.

Teaching the course was Master Sgt. Samuel Hernandez, USARSO, who said he learned as much from the students as they seen these guys start off a little shaky, not knowing their confidence grow to he said. The evening ceremony, Army Col.

commander of the U.S. Military Group, shared some of his personal experiences to students and their spouses at a dinner. “In the U.S. we call senior NCOs in our armed forces the backbone of our military,” Col. Richardson stated. “We place lots of responsibility on them and trust and confidence is something you build over the years.” He described an NCO that took him under his wing as a young lieutenant and spoke to him directly and straight-forwardly but professionally. “I still call him for advice because he’s like a father to me and I’m like his son. I have a special love for him because that guy that mentored me is in fact my father.” He went on to say that his father served in the Air Force for more than 30 years and retired in 1979 at the highest rank of chief master sergeant.



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## CAA Participation in PKO North 2006 - Guatemala



The Conference of American Armies (CAA) deployed a four man cell to Guatemala to observe United States Army South’s PKO North Exercise from 11 through 22 June 2006. The cell consisted of the following officers:

COL Rody Macias	Uruguay
LTC Alejandro Mattiacci	Argentina/ PESCAA
LTC Atila Torres Junior	Brazil
LTC Luis Zaldumbide	Ecuador

The cell participated in the exercise as official observers working as members of the After Action Review (AAR) Committee under the direction of Mr. Robert Pike, CAA Program Specialist and Exercise AAR Co-Director. COL Macias acted as the observer for the UN Force Commander and his staff. The other officers served as observers for the three Sector Commanders and their staffs operating at the main exercise site in Guatemala City. At the end of training each day they were responsible for facilitating an internal AAR in conjunction with their corresponding Sector or Force Commander. They also provided to the AAR Committee Co-Directors valuable input on key lessons learned from events related to the exercise’s

daily themes. This input was used to prepare two collective AARs for all participants and the Final AAR at the conclusion of the exercise.

During the initial week of training and preparation for the exercise, LTC Atila Torres delivered a presentation to all of the exercise participants on how the Brazilian Army prepares its troops for deployment on peace missions. The detailed information provided in his presentation will be of great value to the members of the Conference of Central American Armed Forces as they strive to establish their multinational Peacekeeping Battalion.

Each of these officers possesses extensive experience in Peace Operations which was quite obvious in the way they executed their assigned tasks. Their sophisticated knowledge concerning Peace Operations combined with their sincere desire to train the exercise participants contributed significantly to the success of the exercise.



## In Memory of Michael P. Armstrong

*Michael Powell Armstrong, 44, of San Antonio, Texas, died suddenly at his home on Monday 26 June 2006*

*He was the son of Mary and Lee Page of San Antonio Texas.*

*He was born in Fort Worth Texas on January 26, 1962. Michael graduated from Oliver Wendell Holmes High School, San Antonio, TX. He received his Bachelor of Science, Computer Science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and his Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, University of Texas at Arlington.*

*Michael worked for the Department of Defense as a ManTech Contractor from October 2004 until his death on June 26, 2006. During this period, he served as an Automation Data Processing Analyst/Web Developer in the Joint Coalition Division of the US Army South, G6.*

*Michael was responsible for the USARSO Web Site design. He paid close attention to detail and continually improved the standards of our USARSO Home Page. Michael received an award for his exemplary service during the ARSEC Conference in 2006. His attention to detail and ability to communicate were among his many fine qualities. The stories and knowledge that Michael shared with all of us here in USARSO were always complete and no details were missed. Michael will be missed but not forgotten. We will think of him often... We will miss him dearly... he is in our prayers.*



## Orphanage Committee will Collect School & Hygiene Supplies

The Honduran Orphanage Committee is operated under the USARSO Chaplain's Office

Mary Ellen Keen

In its last campaign in March and April, the Honduran Orphanage Committee collected enough donations from USARSO to send about 230 complete place settings, including plates, bowls, cups, spoons and forks, to Honduras to be distributed among the orphanages near Soto Cano as needed. This donation should go a long way toward alleviating some critical shortages.

We also received large donations of clothing which were sorted, boxed and to be sent along with the tableware. If we receive clothing which is too warm for Honduras or have a good supply, we would like to share collected clothing with others going

downrange for MEDREADY exercises or other humanitarian projects. We truly appreciate your support and hope you will continue supporting the orphanages in our next project which is scheduled for August. These children are always in need of basic school supplies (notebook paper, construction paper, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, plain paper, children's scissors, glue, tape) and hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, combs, brushes). During the

month of August, when these items, particularly school supplies, are readily available and usually on sale, the collection bins will be placed in the hallways and in the Chaplain's office for you to drop off your donations. Please think about these children when you are buying for your own children or when you see the school displays in local stores. We will as always take new or used clothing in good condition at any time, by dropping it off at the Chaplain's office. It takes very little to do a great deal of good.



# *Bobby Pelegreen commissioned as 1LT*



Bobby (Robert L. Pelegreen II) is graduating from Pilot Training on 9 June 2005. "He was commissioned by his proud dad, Bob Pelegreen

Pelegreen and his class mates by the T-1 Trainer, at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. You could say it's taken him seven years of schooling to get to this "bench mark". 1LT

(LTC-Ret), from USARSO G-3 Operations, in June of 2004. 1LT Pelegreen is being assigned to Tacoma, Washington, where he will be flying KC-135 Air Refueling tankers. The pictures shown here include 1LT



Pelegreen is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, is married to 1LT Suheil Pelegreen, and they are expecting their first child in October of 2006. This will be Bob and Lidia Pelegreen's second grand child. USARSO congratulates 1LT Robert L. Pelegreen for his accomplishments and best wishes to him and his wife in their new assignment.

## Hooah to the Army Civilian Corps Creed!!

In a 19 Jun 06 memo, signed jointly by SecArmy Harvey and GEN Schoomaker, the U.S. Army announced the Civilian Corps, which was created to unify the Army civilians and embody the commitment of these dedicated individuals who serve as an integral part of our Army team. In establishing the creed, they acknowledged that "Army civilians serve in all three theaters, and are deployed worldwide supporting the Army mission and the Global War on Terrorism" and that as the Army's missions have become more complex, so have the roles of Army civilians.

### Army Civilian Corps Creed

I am an Army Civilian – a member of the Army Team

I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians

I will always support the mission

I provide stability and continuity during war and peace

I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army

I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage

I am an Army Civilian

### USARSO COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

#### Submit by date

July 27, 2006

#### Publication date

August 6, 2006

Please submit information you would like in the USARSO Newsletter to  
sandra.ramey@samhouston.army.mil

# El Salvador and U.S. Armies celebrate the first Army Bilateral Staff Talks

On 05 June 2006, BG P. K. Keen, USARSO Commanding General traveled to El Salvador along with LTC Axel Martinez, International Military Affairs Chief and MAJ Victor Ortiz, Regional Affairs I Staff Officer, Mr. Joseph Patykula from TRADOC, and Mr. Gary Van de Putte from HQDA to conduct the first Army Bilateral Staff Talks between El Salvador and the US. The Staff Talks' purpose is to enhance the potential for combined force effectiveness through greater bilateral understanding and harmonization of concepts, doctrine, training, operational procedures, and requirements. The Salvadorian delegation included the Chief of Defense, MG Carlos Eduardo Caceres Flores, COL Francisco Ramón Salinas Rivera, Chief of the Political Military Affairs Division, and other selected staff. Both BG Keen and MG Caceres Flores were the Heads of Delegations for their respective armies. Together both delegations, in two very long days, presented topics of interest that benefited both armies, and signed the memorandum of understanding that guides the process of the Staff Talks. The executive session included six mil-to-mil engagements occurring in FY07 and FY08. The approved theme for the Staff Talks is:

“Operation Role of Our Armies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Exchange of Experiences and Lessons Learned on GWOT, PKOs, Natural Disasters, and Humanitarian Assistance.”

The U.S. delegation presented the following topics:

1. COL Anthony Bell, PARC for ACA – The Americas spoke about Logistics: Maintenance and supplies provided by private corporations, where he explained how the US Army analyzes when it's feasible to contract logistical support, thus allowing the Army to better employ their soldiers on the mission.
2. COL Herb Ford, SJA USARSO, presented an overview on the US Military Justice System, describing how the US Army processes soldiers in accordance with the UCMJ.

3. Mr. Jesus D. Ramirez, Operations Chief for Army North, Civil Support Readiness Directorate, presented a briefing on the Organization, equipment and functions of a Civil Support Team (CST). This briefing generated plenty of discussions because the Salvadoran Army is interested in creating this capability within their Army.

4. Mr. Michael McCoy, Analyst for the Center for Army Lessons Learned briefed Lessons Learned in Peacekeeping Operations (Afghanistan and Iraq). He discussed cultural awareness and emphasized many factors of peacekeeping operations.



The Salvadorian delegation presented the following topics:

1. Update on Lessons Learned regarding Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) & Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and their participation in Peace Keeping Operations under the United Nations' Sanctions.

2. El Salvador's role in the Central American Armed Forces Conference (CFAC).

3. Interaction with other law enforcement agencies in response to criminal activities (drugs, human trafficking, gangs).

The Staff Talks Program focuses on managing the strategic relationship between the U.S. Army and selected Armies in the USSOUTHCOM AOR. Currently there are three ongoing Army Staff Talks Programs in the Western Hemisphere; Brazil, El Salvador, and Chile. The next El Salvador – US Bilateral Army Staff Talks will be held at Fort Sam Houston in 2008.

The Salvadorians had an aggressive agenda of activities during the 2 day event. Many thanks to COL Felix Santiago, MILGP Commander and SFC Leandro Quintero, MILGP NCOIC for their excellent support and key coordination of this important event.